

**Written Public Comment(s)**  
**for Item No. 10**

## **CEO\_BoardFeedback**

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**From:** Gia Pham <gia@housingchoices.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 5:42 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Subject:** Agenda Item #10: HE: Implementation of Universal Design Ordinance and Staffing Needs

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April 22, 2024

Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Dear Honorable Supervisors of San Mateo County,

Thank you for the county's efforts to enhance affordable housing through the updated Housing Element. I commend the inclusion of the universal design ordinance, which is essential for serving our community members with disabilities. The adoption of this ordinance will not only improve accessibility but also ensure that housing developments are adaptable to the diverse needs of all residents, thereby promoting inclusivity.

The latest draft of the Housing Element indicates that the implementation of the universal design ordinance is a priority, yet it has been stalled due to insufficient staffing and resources. **To address this issue, I urge the county to allocate dedicated, full-time staff to establish and enforce universal design standards. This action will better serve those with disabilities who often struggle to find affordable and accessible housing.**

Specifically, hiring full-time employees will significantly enhance the county's capacity to meet these goals outlined in the Housing Element. I strongly advise against the county relying on temporary consultants, as their short-term involvement may not align with the county's long-term objectives. They may lack the in-depth knowledge and long-term commitment necessary to make the best decisions and complete the required work within their contractual time limits.

The county needs to develop a universal design checklist and implement the ordinance within the 2023-2031 Housing Element cycle. This has been a written goal since 2016, and it is crucial that those with disabilities in our community do not have to wait any longer.

Increased staffing is also necessary for effectively managing rezoning and community planning throughout the county, including areas like Pescadero and the South Coast. Adequate staffing will help the county maintain compliance with housing regulations and achieve the ambitious goals of the Housing Element.

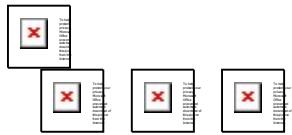
Please ensure that the planning department has the necessary resources, whether through Measure K, the General Fund, or other sources, to implement and sustain these vital policies.

Thank you for affirming that the universal design ordinance is a priority- it gives hope for people in the community with disabilities. I look forward to seeing concrete steps toward allocating staff to fulfill this critical

aspect of our community's development. I greatly appreciate the county's ongoing commitment and efforts to make our community more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

**Warm Regards,**

**Gia Pham**



## **CEO\_BoardFeedback**

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**From:** Yajaira Ortega <yajaira@thrivealliance.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:27 PM  
**To:** CEO\_BoardFeedback  
**Cc:** Georgia Antonopoulos  
**Subject:** Planning and Building-Item 10. Housing Element

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Yajaira Ortega, and I am writing today on behalf of Thrive Alliance and the Housing Element Coalition.

San Mateo County's current Housing Element includes some of the most robust pro-housing policies on the Peninsula, all thanks to your leadership and constant support. Thrive believes there are ongoing opportunities to promote housing in the County's highest-opportunity areas and for the Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) community. However, we remain grateful for the County's leadership and excited to begin implementing the many impactful policies for the Housing Element.

[Please see our joint letter for more information.](#)

In Community,

Yajaira Ortega



**Yajaira Ortega (She/Her/Ella)**  
Policy and Equity Manager, Thrive Alliance

559-304-5496 | [yajaira@thrivealliance.org](mailto:yajaira@thrivealliance.org)  
[www.thrivealliance.org](http://www.thrivealliance.org)

Sobrato Center for Nonprofits - Redwood Shores, CA



**From:** [Cathy Baird](#)  
**To:** [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Thank you for supporting multi-family housing throughout the county  
**Date:** Monday, April 22, 2024 8:31:27 PM

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Supervisors:

Thank you for supporting multi-family housing throughout San Mateo County. As you know, we need more housing and more affordable housing in this county, and multi-family housing is the best way to increase availability.

In particular, thank you for moving forward on the plans in El Granada, which is so needed as workforce housing on the coast. It's near bus service, too, which is important for coastal workers and can help with traffic impact.

Please continue to approve multi-family housing for San Mateo County.

Cathy Baird  
San Carlos (District 3)